

1	REPORTER'S RECORD VOLUME 45 OF 50 VOLUMES		
2	TRIAL COURT CAUSE NO. 588227		
3	COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS CASE NO. AP-76,769		
4	THE STATE OF TEXAS) IN THE DISTRICT COURT		
5	VS. HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS		
6	CARL WAYNE BUNTION) 178TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT		
7			
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9			
10	TRIAL PROCEEDINGS		
11			
12			
13	FILED IN COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEALS		
14	NOV 14 2012		
15			
16	Louise Pearson, Clerk		
17			
18	On the 6th day of March, 2012, the		
19	following proceedings came on to be heard in the		
20	above-titled and numbered cause before the Honorable		
21	David L. Mendoza, Judge Presiding, held in Houston,		
22	Harris County, Texas.		
23	Proceedings reported by stenotype machine;		
24	Reporter's Record produced by computer-assisted		
2 =	tranggrintion		

TAMMY L. ADAMS, CSR OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER 178TH DISTRICT COURT

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1	CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX VOLUME 45 OF 50 TRIAL PROCEEDINGS	
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(The following proceedings were held in 1 the 178th District Court on the 19th floor.) 2 (Open court; defendant not present.) 3 THE COURT: All right. This is Cause 4 No. 588227, State of Texas versus Carl Wayne Buntion. 5 The record will reflect today's date is March the 6th It's about 10:15 a.m. Counsel for the State and defense are present. Defendant is in the 8 holdover on another floor. This is the 178th Criminal District Court, 19th floor. 10 Record will reflect that informally, I 11 set out my understanding of an issue yesterday with 12 the jury. And it's my understanding counsel for the 13 14 defense wanted to make a motion concerning the jury foreman in the case and concerning an issue in the 15 case as to several things. And I'll let both of 16 17 y'all get on the record. The record will further reflect that 18 informally, I explained to the counsel my impression 19 20 of what happened yesterday at 5:30, as follows: At 5:30, I sat on the Bench in open 21 court, in the presence of the defendant, defense 22 counsel, counsel for the State and the audience. 23 24 informed the bailiff to bring in the jury, because I was going to retire them for the day and enter a 25

sequestration order, that counsel for the State and I
had both discussed in chambers.

The plan was to shut it down about

5:30, so that arrangements could be made so that the
jury could be transported to the local hotel. And

6 the plan was at 5:30 to inform them of that

7 sequestration order and to break them for the 8 evening. Whereupon, I asked the bailiff to bring the

9 jury in.

or something like that.

10

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The bailiff went to talk to the jury to bring them in. And then came back in the courtroom and said, "Judge, approach the Bench -- may I approach bench?" "Yes." And told me briefly, "Oh, Judge," something -- and I don't remember exactly, but something of "They may get a verdict if we stay a little longer," or "They're about to get a verdict,"

Whereupon, I said, "Okay." And I asked both sets of attorneys to approach the bench and informed them exactly as to what the bailiff had just told me 30 seconds before.

Whereupon, Court stood in recess. Time passed. Maybe 15 minutes later, the jury buzzed according to everybody's recollection, and Deputy Johnson went to inquire about the buzzer. He did so,

came back, and told the Court that, "Judge, it was a misunderstanding, miscommunication." Something about they thought I was going in for something the first 3 time I went to talk to them or something, but we're not going to have a verdict, or something like that. 5 Fine, so I get on the Bench quarter to 6 7 6:00. Mr. Scardino is out of pocket, Mr. Keirnan's in court, Ms. Dozier's in court, Mr. Long's in court, 8 the defendant's in court, and we bring in the jury. And then we bring in the jury. But before we do 10 that, I tell Deputy Johnson, "I'm going to ask you in 11 front of the lawyers in open court, to tell me just 12 what you told me now about, you know, it was a 13 14 misunderstanding, " whatever. So I asked him and he told me and he 15 said for the first time, "Judge, they say they might 16 need another hour or so, to reach a verdict, " or 17 something like that -- some words to that effect. 18 And y'all heard what he said in open court, and it 19 was on the record. So that's where we are. 20 Now, Deputy Johnson, do you concur with 21 that version of events? 22 THE BAILIFF: Yes, sir. 23 THE COURT: Okay. Now, I can't quote 24 you and you can't quote me, because this is basically 25

what I heard. And I didn't hear anything untoward. 1 It's just -- it just goes to show that when you go get the bailiff -- get the jury, either bring them in or don't bring them in. Don't engage in 5 conversations. Don't talk to the jury. If they have something they want to say -- tell me, they can put it in writing, have the foreman sign it. 7 This is the state of the record. So 8 you may proceed, Mr. Keirnan and Mr. Scardino, any 9 motions you may have. 10 Thank you, Your Honor. 11 MR. KEIRNAN: If it please the Court, the Court is aware and the 12 record is aware that the jury began to deliberate, I 13 say, at approximately 1:30 or 2:00 yesterday, 14 somewhere about that time. And lunch was brought in 15 to them and they had been deliberating. And I concur 16 17 completely with the events as you've stated them into the record as to what happened. 18 However, I interpreted that this jury 19 20 was not unanimous. That they're unable to reach a 21 verdict, and it's for those reasons that a sufficient amount of time has passed, that they've been unable 22 to reach a verdict and I ask to move this Court to 23 discharge the jury and enter a life sentence at this 24

time for those reasons.

I think, that although they didn't send 1 Through the informal communications 2 a note to you. 3 they thought they could reach a verdict. They're unable to reach a verdict and as defense lawyers, we interpret that to be not unanimous. And once a 5 verdict is not unanimous under the law, they should 6 be disbanded and they should -- the defendant, 7 Mr. Buntion, should receive a life sentence from you 8 by law. The other motion that I make at this 10 time, is the -- the jury foreman, and we know it from 11 the notes is Mr. Curry. Mr. Curry got on this jury 12 over objections from the defense that he was a 13 14 disqualified juror by law. And we did not have any strikes at that time and he was seated by the Court. 15 That was the juror that was seated. 16 Had we had an additional peremptory 17 challenge, we would have struck that juror in 18 19 intelligently exercising a peremptory challenge, 20 mainly because his brother is a police officer. And some other relations to law enforcement. 21 So, we now reurge to the Court that our 22 worst nightmare comes true. A juror that we thought 23 was disqualified, a juror that is -- that we would 24

have exercised a challenge for cause for, is now the

And so we ask that the Court remove jury foreman. 2 the foreman of the jury, remove him, and replace him 3 with an alternate, the first alternate juror, in the interest of justice on behalf of Mr. Buntion, Your 4 5 Honor. THE COURT: All right. And what say 6 7 the State? MR. LONG: They haven't even 8 deliberated as long as some witnesses were on the 9 stand. So there's been no indication of a deadlock. 10 11 And even if there were, the law would entitle you to 12 give them an Allen charge, and we're nowhere near 13 that -- yes, they do know. We're nowhere near that point now, at all. 14 And as to the removal of the foreman, 15 the standard of challenges is gone now. We now have 16 a seated jury, a lawfully seated jury. The standard 17 for removal of a juror now is whether or not they're 18 disabled and there's no been no evidence of that. 19 20 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. one other thing, just so the record is clear. 21 position is that the jury is -- perhaps is 22 deadlocked, the defense position. 23 24 And Deputy Johnson, from your own

words, what did anybody tell, when you first went to

```
bring them in at 5:30? And who told you what?
   told you and what -- what did that person tell you?
 2
                 THE BAILIFF: On the initial entry into
 3
   the jury room, Judge, the foreman, Mr. Curry, stated
   that, "Give us a little while longer, we're close
 5
   to -- to getting -- having a decision."
 6
                                     That's what he said?
                 THE COURT: Okay.
 7
                 THE BAILIFF: Yes, sir.
 8
                 THE COURT: Had you asked him anything
 9
   before then, or had you just opened the door?
10
                 THE BAILIFF: No, sir, I just opened
11
12
   the door.
                 THE COURT: Okay. That's it.
                                                 Then you
13
   came and told me about it.
14
                 THE BAILIFF: Then I came and told you
15
   about it.
16
                 THE COURT: All right.
17
                                          Then --
                 THE BAILIFF: Then the second ding
18
   came, I went back in. They inquired to why I
19
   initially came in the first time.
20
                 THE COURT: Okay. And what did they
21
22
   say and who said what?
                 THE BAILIFF: At that time, the
23
24
   foreperson, Mr. Curry, said, "I -- we rang the bell
   because we wanted to know what you came in for the
25
```

```
1
   first time?
 2
                 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.
                 THE BAILIFF: And then after that, I
 3
   asked -- I inquired of Mr. Curry, "How much longer do
 4
   y'all need?" He said, "Oh, another hour." And he
 5
   said, "We're just getting ready to make a decision on
   the first issue." That's what I --
 7
                 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.
 8
 9
   you very much.
                 The defense counsel's motions one and
10
   two are denied and the objection's overruled.
11
   that concludes this hearing.
12
                 MR. KEIRNAN: Yes, sir. Thank you,
13
14
   Your Honor.
15
                 THE COURT: Thank you.
                 THE BAILIFF: And the jury -- Deputy
16
17
   Bronikowski called and the jury sent out another
   note.
18
19
                 THE COURT: Okay. Let's go.
20
                  (Hearing concluded.)
21
                  (Open court; defendant not present.)
                  THE COURT: This is Cause No. 588227,
22
   State of Texas versus Carl Wayne Buntion.
23
                 The record will reflect the jury has
24
   sent out another note. It's styled at the top, Note
25
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1 Number Three. It's dated 3/6/12, 10:15 a.m. Reads 2 as follows: Please allow us to review the history 3 charge sheet for Carl W. Buntion from his first arrest, it looks like, to last. And then parentheses 5 it says, 14 charges. Foreman, something Curry and 7 then written Steven Curry. File dated today's date, 8 10:11 a.m. And my response is: Dear Jurors --9 now, was that -- that sheet in evidence? 10 MR. LONG: There's one admitted by the 11 defense, but it does not include all of his -- it 12 doesn't include the Alabama conviction. So the one 13 that I used that had all of them, was not admitted. 14 There was one admitted by the defense for the Texas 15 convictions, but it didn't include the first to the 16 17 last. So I don't know --THE COURT: Okay. Well, there's -- the 18 19 defense one has 14 cases? Or does it have 13 and 20 this is the 14th? 21 MR. SCARDINO: I agree with Mr. Long, we did introduce through S.O. Woods, a sheet that he 22 testified off of. And it was -- it is in evidence 23 and it has the -- all of his trips, if that's what 24 25 they're referring -- there's nothing else in the

record except that, that would refer to that, that I 1 know of -- that I can remember. They do have all the pen packets with 3 all the trips, including Alabama --4 THE COURT: Yeah. 5 MR. SCARDINO: And they do have all the 6 7 They have that again, the ones that we introduced with the disciplinary records on it, also. 8 So they've got -- they've got that in duplicate. there is -- I think I know what they're talking 1.0 about, it's that thing that Woods testified from. 11 It's a -- it's a one-page document that has every 12 trip on it. 13 14 MR. LONG: I don't know if they're talking about the one I used in closing, that wasn't 15 admitted, that includes all of them. 16 THE COURT: Well, let's do this. 17 both of them, we'll talk about it more on the record. 18 Then I'll give them what -- I'll give them --19 There's only one that was 20 MR. LONG: admitted. Mine was never admitted. 21 I know. But -- then don't 22 THE COURT: It's a nonissue then in that case. Go 23 pull it. ahead and -- Ms. Adams, find that sheet and we'll talk about it. 25

And the Court stand in recess. 1 2 Remain seated, please. 3 (Recess.) THE COURT: Counsel, approach the 4 5 bench, please. (Bench Conference.) 6 THE COURT: The record will reflect 7 that Ms. Adams has tendered to the Court, Defense Exhibit No. 19, which is a one-page document, it's 9 10 styled page 2, Buntion, Carl Wayne, TDC numbers, then a file we noted dates of TDCJ incarceration for 11 12 Carl Wayne Buntion, AKA Jimmy Lee Pruitt. I didn't count how many entries there 13 are. But the point is, this is the only document 14 15 that was admitted concerning 13, 14 arrests, 16 incarcerations, pen trips, convictions, whatever that were in evidence. 17 So I'm going to probably let them have 18 this, and respond: Dear Jurors: 20 MR. LONG: Can we put an objection on 21 the record? THE COURT: Sure. 22 MR. LONG: Okay. We object -- oh, you 23 24 want to finish. I'm sorry. 25 THE COURT: No, let's talk about it.

```
That's -- that's another point for being up here.
   Yeah, I'm inclined to let it in. So what's your
 2
 3
   objection?
                 MR. LONG: Can I see the note real
 4
 5
   quick?
                 THE COURT:
                             Sure.
 6
 7
                 MR. SCARDINO: Judge, if I may respond
   before he objects. I don't have a problem with it
 8
9
  not going back to them.
                 THE COURT:
                             Okay.
10
                 MR. SCARDINO: But the -- but that's
11
   the only thing that I -- that we could find that
12
   was -- that was sensitive to the question.
13
                 THE COURT: Yeah, because it talks
14
   about arrests. It was convictions. It was pen
15
16
   packets.
                 MR. SCARDINO:
                                 Right. Well, they have
17
  all the pen packets and they have all the -- they
18
  have all that.
19
                 THE COURT: I might just say literally
20
21
   -- answer it, there's no document concerning 14
22
   arrests.
                             That was admitted.
                 MR. LONG:
23
24
                 THE COURT: That was admitted into
   evidence.
25
```

Because this one's about 14 MR. LONG: 1 charges and this doesn't have it. And I don't think 2 3 MR. SCARDINO: Well, it does. It does, 4 5 because those are duplicate -- a lot of those are double trips. MS. DOZIER: Well, it says, first 7 arrest to last. It doesn't include the Alabama either. 9 MR. LONG: It says, please allow us to 10 review the history of charge sheet for Carl W. 11 Buntion, from his first arrest to his last. And in 12 parentheses, 14 charges. And that's not this 13 document. This shows some. It shows arrests, but it 14 doesn't show all the charges. 15 16 THE COURT: Okay. MR. LONG: And it doesn't show first 17 arrest to last. They have that information back 18 there. 19 In the form of pen 20 MS. DOZIER: packets. 21 MR. SCARDINO: Well, if you take them 22 at it, they don't have anything on arrests. They 23 have convictions. 24 MR. LONG: Correct. 25

1	THE COURT: Uh-huh.
2	MR. SCARDINO: That may just be
3	semantics, but there is no such document.
4	THE COURT: We know what they want, but
5	this isn't it.
6	MR. KEIRNAN: We're not going to object
7	to their objections, you know.
8	MR. SCARDINO: I don't know. I'm not
9	crazy about it going back anyway. But but if they
10	
11	THE COURT: Let's summarize here.
12	MR. LONG: Our request is the note say
13	something along the lines of, nothing was admitted
14	that shows a list of all of his arrests from first to
15	last. To track their language.
16	MR. KEIRNAN: Do you agree with that?
17	MR. SCARDINO: Yeah, because there's
18	nothing about arrests.
19	THE COURT: Okay. Dear Jurors: There
20	was no
21	MR. SCARDINO: Single document.
22	Because there are some documents.
23	MR. LONG: Single document admitted
24	into evidence.
25	MS. DOZIER: Yeah. There's a summary.

```
THE COURT: I'm going to say, there was
 1
   no -- there was no charge -- there was no
 2
 3
   history charge -- well, let's think about this.
   There was no single --
                 MS. DOZIER: No summary?
 5
                  THE COURT: There was no sheet I'm
 6
 7
   going to refer to. There was no charge sheet.
                 MR. LONG: That was admitted into
 8
   evidence.
 9
                 MR. SCARDINO: That was admitted into
10
   evidence.
11
                  THE COURT:
                             I'm going to quote, history
12
   charge sheet. There's no history charge sheet for
13
   Carl W. Buntion, from his first arrest to last, 14
1.4
15
   charges, parenthesis, unquote, admitted into
16
   evidence -- as an exhibit? As an exhibit. Signed,
   David L. Mendoza, Judge, 178th District Court.
17
                  File date that, please, right here in
18
   the corner.
19
                 Any objections to this charge -- I
20
21
   mean, to this note on the -- Jury Note Number Four
22
   from?
          I mean number three.
                  MR. LONG: None from the State.
23
                 MR. SCARDINO: None from the defense,
24
25
   Your Honor.
```

```
THE COURT: All right. Do you waive --
 1
   does defense waive bringing in Mr. Buntion and
 2
   bringing the jury in, having me read this note to the
 3
   jury in open court in his presence and y'all's
   presence?
 5
 6
                 MR. SCARDINO: The defense so waives
   that, Your Honor.
 7
                 THE COURT: All right.
                                          Thank you.
 8
                 MR. SCARDINO: We don't object to it.
 9
                 THE COURT: All right.
                                          Thank you.
10
                 Record will reflect that the jury's
11
   Note Number Three, Court's reviewed it and discussed
12
   the issue in open court, and here at bench
13
   conference. And my response to the note is:
14
                 Dear Jurors: There was no, quote,
15
   history charge sheet for Carl W. Buntion from his
16
   first arrest to last, and in parenthesis, 14 charges,
17
18
   close quote, admitted into evidence as an exhibit.
   Signed, David L. Mendoza, Judge, 178th District
19
   Court. File dated today's date, 10:41 a.m.
20
21
                 And, Deputy Johnson, if you would, take
22
   it to the jury.
23
                 And for your records.
                 All right. Remain seated.
24
                                              Court
   stands in recess.
25
```

```
MR. KEIRNAN: Yes, sir.
 1
 2
                  (Bench Conference Concluded.)
                  (Deliberations continued.)
 3
                  MR. SCARDINO: Yes, sir.
 4
                  THE COURT: All right. This is Cause
 5
                Today's date is March the 6th, 2012.
   No. 588227.
 6
 7
                  The jury has sent out a note, Note
   Number Four, as follows 3/6/12, 11:20 a.m.
8
   please get a fresh breath of air to clean our minds,
   please. Foreman, Steve Curry, Steve Curry, filed
10
   dated 11:23 a.m.
11
                  I'm going to bring them out in open
12
   court and respond: Yes, but we're going to take a
13
14
   break for lunch as -- while we're at it.
   remember the same instruction, et cetera, et cetera.
15
                  All right. Bring out Mr. Buntion and
16
   then bring in Mr. -- bring in the jury, including the
17
18
   alternates.
19
                  Bring in the jury, please.
                  (Jury Panel enters courtroom.)
20
                  (Open court; defendant and jury panel
21
   present.)
22
                  THE COURT: Go ahead and file date
23
   this, please.
24
                  Be seated, please.
25
```

Good morning, members of the jury. 1 JURY PANEL: Morning. 2 THE COURT: Mr. Curry, I got Note 3 I'll put Note Number Four on top. Number Four. 4 Yes, sir. JUROR CURRY: 5 THE COURT: And it's file dated March 6 the 6th, 2012, 11:23 a.m. It's about 11:28 -- I 7 mean, 11:38 a.m. now. It reads as follows: 3/6/12, 8 11:20 a.m. May we please get a fresh breath of air 9 to clear our minds, please. Signed, Foreman, Steven 10 11 Curry. And my response is: Dear Jurors, we're 12 going to take a lunch break shortly. So we'll 13 accommodate the break. It's going to be at -- out of 14 the building. So we'll take a lunch break and 15 remember the instructions I gave you yesterday. 16 The sequestration order about not 17 making any kind of independent investigations, not 18 talking about the case even at lunch time. Remember, 19 just talk about the case when you're deliberating, 20 when all 12 of you are physically present in the jury 21 room. And don't do any kind of independent 22 investigation of whatever sort or nature. Also, 23 don't read any newspapers or listen to or watch TV or 24 radio, or any kind of news broadcasts. 25

```
Just have a good lunch and by the time
 1
   you get there, it will in 12:00 noon thereabouts.
 2
   We're going to take a break to about 1:15 or so.
 3
   if you get back before 1:15 or so, and you have
 5
   another note, we won't be to answer it until after
   1:15 or so.
 6
                  So have a good lunch and remember the
 7
   instructions. And this goes for all the jurors,
 8
   including the alternates. Thank you very much.
10
                  THE BAILIFF: All rise for the jury.
11
                  (Jury exits courtroom.)
                  (Lunch recess taken.)
12
                  THE COURT: For the record, the jury
13
   has sent out Note Number Five. Before we get into
14
   that on the record, could I have defense counsel both
15
   sides present in the courtroom?
16
                  So, remain seated. Court stand in
17
   recess until they get here.
18
                  I need to talk to the bailiffs, please.
19
                  Remain seated.
20
21
                  (Recess.)
                  (Discussion off the record.)
2.2
                  THE COURT: Bring out Mr. Buntion,
23
   please.
24
                  For the record, I've been back in
25
```

chambers dealing with some issues relative to logistics. It's now about 2:15 p.m. and I'll read 2 this Note Number Five that the jury sent, when 3 Mr. Buntion comes in the courtroom. (Defendant enters courtroom.) 5 6 THE COURT: Okay. The jury sent out a It's styled Note Number Five. It's -- reads 7 as follows: 3/6/2012, 1:35 p.m. Juror, dash --8 well, I don't want to mention her name, RM, initials, needs her mother called to make sure she is picking 10 up her kids tonight, in the event we do not come up 11 with a verdict. Their father -- and it names their 12 13 father -- needs to be called also, to pick them up. Leaves a number. 14 And then it says, Mom, name, work 15 number, cell number, foreman. Signed by the foreman 16 of the jury. File dated March 6th, 2012, 1:37 p.m. 17 18 I'm going to bring them out and talk to them about this and say that will be done. But also 19 20 I'm going to give them some instructions. 2:15 p.m. If they arrive at a verdict by 5:30, fine. 21 If they don't, that's fine. But I'm not going to 22 23 unduly pressure this jury to arrive at a verdict because of the late hour. And I want to let them 24 know and everybody in the courtroom to know that. 25

Tomorrow's another day. And the jury 1 will take however much time is reasonably necessary to resolve the issues that they are charged with 3 deciding. 4 So at this time -- where's Deputy 5 There you are. Would you bring out the 6 Johnson? 7 jury, please. Both sides ready? 8 MR. SCARDINO: Yes, sir. 9 MS. DOZIER: Yes, Your Honor. 10 MR. KEIRNAN: Yes, Your Honor. 11 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. 12 (Jury Panel enters courtroom.) 13 14 (Open court; defendant and jury panel present. 15 16 THE COURT: Be seated, please. 17 Good afternoon, members of the jury. JURY PANEL: Good afternoon. 18 THE COURT: Got a note here, Note 19 Number Five, reads as follows: 3/6/2012, 1:35 p.m. 20 Juror, dash, names the juror, needs her mother called 21 to make sure she is picking up her kids tonight, in the event we do not come up with a verdict. 23 father, names the father, needs to be called also to 24 25 pick them up, leaves a number. Mom, I think it says,

names the mom, work number, cell number. Signed File dated, March 6th, 2012, 1:37 p.m. 2 Foreman. Members of the jury, these folks are 3 going to be called. And if there's a problem, we'll 4 5 let you know. We'll let the juror know. We'll let the foreman know. Also, if other folks have similar 6 issues, then write another note. 7 And I'm instructing you right now, that 8 -- letting you know, that you are charged with the 9 responsibility of considering all the evidence and 10 applying the evidence to the law that applies in this 11 case. But you are also instructed that you'll take 12 13 as much time as is reasonably necessary to resolve the issues that you need to resolve and that you need 14 to deal with. 15 Now, if that's done by 5:30 today, 16 If it's not done by 5:30 today, fine. 17 18 5:30 or so, we're going to -- if you don't have a verdict, we're going to reset the case for further 19 deliberations for tomorrow. And the same 20 21 sequestration order that I read to you yesterday will And I'll do that at the end of the day if, in 22 23 fact, you don't arrive at a verdict by 5:30. If you do, fine; if you don't, that's fine, too. 24 25 But I want all of you to know, if you

```
have similar issues to this juror, let us know.
   Write another note. Have the foreman sign it and
 2
   we'll deal with it, all right?
 3
                 So if you would, continue your
 4
   deliberations and remember the instructions I gave
 5
   you.
         Thank you.
                  (Jury exits courtroom.)
 7
                 THE BAILIFF: All rise for the jury.
 8
                  (Jury exits courtroom.)
 9
                  (Deliberations continue.)
10
11
                 THE COURT: Be seated, please.
12
                 The record will reflect that my
   response on Note Number Five to the jury is: Court
13
   responded in open court and I initialed it. File
14
   date this, please. And then give them this note and
15
16
   number four back and remain seated.
                 Court stand in recess until further
17
   notice.
18
                  (Deliberations continue.)
19
                  (Recess.)
20
21
                 THE COURT: Before the buzz, jury sent
   out a note, Note Number Six, reads as follows:
22
   3/6/12, 3:46 p.m. May we please have a ten minute
23
   recess before entering the courtroom? We need to
24
   compose ourselves briefly. Thank you.
25
                                            Signed,
```

```
1
   foreman.
             File dated March 6th, 2012, 3:49 p.m.
                                                      It's
 2
   been over ten minutes.
                  Dear Jurors: Yes, you may.
 3
 4
                 Any objections to this response?
 5
                 MR. LONG:
                             None from the State.
                  MR. SCARDINO: None from the defense,
 6
 7
   Your Honor.
                  THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
 8
   Signed, David L. Mendoza, Judge, 178th District
 9
10
   Court. File date this, please. Hand it to the
   bailiff.
11
                                 May I address the Court,
                 MR. SCARDINO:
12
   Your Honor. Are you going to bring them in the
13
14
   courtroom?
                  THE COURT:
                              Yes.
1.5
16
                 MR. SCARDINO: Then I have a motion to
17
   make, Your Honor.
                  THE COURT:
                             Okay.
18
                  MR. SCARDINO: We've been fairly
19
   tolerant of -- of all the police presence in the
20
21
   courtroom. We'd ask that one of two things take
   place. One, if you're going to bring the jurors back
23
   in, that the police officers in uniform be removed,
24
   or they not be brought back in the courtroom.
   the Court can address their 10 minute break in some
25
```

```
other fashion. We believe it's intimidating.
 1
   only for the purposes to intimidate them, being here
 2
 3
   when they come in and out.
 4
                 And that's my motion.
                 THE COURT: All right. Bring in
 5
   Mr. Buntion, please. Thank you.
 6
                 And hand this to the bailiff.
 7
 8
   second.
                 Let me have that back, please.
 9
                 THE BAILIFF: (Tenders document.)
10
                  (Defendant enters courtroom.)
11
                 THE COURT: The jury sent out a note,
12
   Note Number Six, dated 3/6/12, 3:46 p.m., as follows:
13
   May we please have a 10-minute recess before entering
14
15
   the courtroom. We need to compose ourselves briefly.
16
   Thank you. Signed, foreman. File dated, March the
   6th, 2012, 3:49 p.m.
17
                 My response is: Dear Jurors:
18
                                                 Yes, you
   may. Signed, David L. Mendoza, Judge, 178th District
19
   Court. Mr. Buntion was not in the courtroom at that
20
21
   time I read it and defense counsel had a request and
   a motion.
22
23
                 Do you care to reiterate it or not?
                 MR. SCARDINO: Sure. Mr. Buntion
24
   wasn't here when I did it.
25
```

THE COURT: Okay. 1 2 MR. SCARDINO: I made a motion, Mr. Buntion, that the -- if the jury's to be brought 3 back in, just to be released on a break, that the uniformed officer presence in the courtroom be 5 Or in the alternative, that they be allowed removed. 6 to take a break without being brought back in the 7 And the Judge has yet to rule on that. courtroom. 8 9 THE COURT: Okay. MR. LONG: We would agree with the 10 I don't see any reason to bring them in the 1 1 courtroom, as long as the defense doesn't care, the 12 State doesn't care if they just want to go out and 13 take a break. 14 15 MR. SCARDINO: That's fine with us, 16 Judge. 17 THE COURT: Okay. Well, let's find out what they want to do, besides just a break. 18 that mean go outside? Any objections to the bailiff 19 20 asking them what they want to do? MR. SCARDINO: No objections, Your 21 22 Honor. MR. LONG: None from the State. 23 24 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead and 25 ask them what they want to do. Take a fresh air

```
break or what.
 1
                  MR. SCARDINO: May I make inquiry to
 2
   the Court, Your Honor?
 3
                  THE COURT:
                              Sure.
 4
 5
                  MR. SCARDINO: Did they send out a
 6
   verdict form, also.
                  THE COURT: I haven't seen anything.
 7
                  MR. SCARDINO:
                                 Okay.
 8
 9
                  THE COURT: I was just called that they
   had a note and here I am.
10
11
                  MR. SCARDINO:
                                 Thank you.
12
                  THE BAILIFF: (Tenders note to the
   Court.)
13
                  THE COURT: File date this, please.
14
                  Jury sent out a note, Note Number
15
   Seven, file dated March 6th, 2012, 4:03 p.m.
16
                  It reads as follows: 3/6/12, 4:03 p.m
17
   we have reached a verdict and are ready to proceed.
18
19
   Thank you.
                Foreman.
20
                  All right. Both sides ready for the
21
   jury?
22
                  MR. SCARDINO: Yes, sir.
                  MR. KEIRNAN: Yes, Your Honor.
23
24
                  THE COURT: All right. Bring them in,
25
   please.
```

```
(Jury Panel enters courtroom.)
 1
                  (Open court; defendant and jury panel
 2
 3
   present.)
 4
                  THE COURT: Be seated, please.
                  Good morning, member of the jury.
 5
                  JURY PANEL: Good morning.
 6
                  THE COURT: Mr. Curry, has the jury
 7
   arrived at a verdict?
8
                 JUROR CURRY: Yes, we have, Your Honor.
 9
                  THE COURT: If you would, please stand
10
   up and give it to the bailiff.
11
12
                  JUROR CURRY: (Tenders document to the
13
   bailiff.)
                  THE BAILIFF: (Tenders document to the
14
   Court.)
15
                 THE COURT: Thank you. You may be
16
17
   seated.
                 Mr. Buntion, please stand up.
18
                           VERDICT
19
                  THE COURT: In Cause No. 588227, State
20
   of Texas versus Carl Wayne Buntion, 178th District
21
   Court, Harris County, Texas, January term AD, 2012,
22
23
   special issues with forms for your answers are as
24
   follows:
                  Special Issue Number One: Do you find
25
```

```
1
   from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that the
   conduct of the defendant, Carl Wayne Buntion, that
 2
   caused the death of James Irby, was committed
 3
   deliberately and with the reasonable expectation what
   the death of James Irby or another would result?
 5
                  "ANSWER:
                           We the jury unanimously find
 6
 7
   and determine beyond a reasonable doubt that the
   answer to this special issue is "yes."
 8
                  Signed, Foreman of The Jury, Steven R.
 9
10
   Curry.
                  Special Issue Number Two:
                                             Do you find
11
   from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt there is
12
   a probability that the defendant, Carl Wayne Buntion,
13
   would commit criminal acts of violence that would
14
15
   constitute a continuing threat to society?
                            We the jury unanimously find
16
                  "ANSWER:
   and determine beyond a reasonable doubt that the
17
   answer to this special issue is "yes."
18
                  Signed, Steven R. Curry, Foreman of the
19
20
   Jury.
                  Special Issue Number Three:
21
                                               Do you
   find from the evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that
22
23
   the conduct of the defendant, Carl Wayne Buntion, in
24
   killing James Irby, was unreasonable in response to
   provocation, if any, by James Irby.
25
```

"ANSWER: We the jury unanimously find and determine beyond a reasonable doubt that the answer to this special issue is "yes." Signed, Steven R. Curry, Foreman of The Jury. In event that the jury has answered all Special Issues, Numbers One, Two -- Number One, 7 Number Two and Number Three in the affirmative and 8 only then shall the jury answer Special Issue Number Four. 10 Special Issue Number Four: Do you find from the evidence, taking into consideration all of 12 the evidence, including the circumstances of the 13 offense, the defendant's character and background, 14 and the personal moral culpability of the defendant, 15 16 that there is a sufficient mitigating circumstance or circumstances to warrant that a sentence of life 17 rather than a death sentence be imposed? 18 You are instructed that in answering 19 this special issue, that you shall answer the issue 20 21 "yes" or "no." You may not answer this issue "no," 22 Unless you agree unanimously and you may not answer this issue "yes," unless ten or more of you agree to 23 24 do so.

1

2

3

4

5

6

9

11

25

"ANSWER:

We the jury unanimously find

```
and determine that the answer to this special issue
   is "no."
                  Signed, Steven Curry, Foreman of The
 3
 4
   Jury.
                  After the verdict has answered each of
 5
   the personal issues under the conditions and
 6
   instructions outlined above, the foreman should sign
 7
   the verdict form below.
 8
                 Verdict: We the jury return in open
 9
   court the above answers to the special issues
10
11
   submitted to us, and the same is our verdict in this
12
   case.
                  Signed, Steve Curry, Foreman of The
13
   Jury.
14
                  You may be seated.
15
                  Does either side wish to have the jury
16
17
   polled in this matter?
                  MR. SCARDINO: We do, Your Honor.
18
                  THE COURT: All right. Members of the
19
   jury, at this time the clerk will call your name and
20
21
            If this is your individual verdict, please
   number.
22
   answer "yes." If it is not, please answer "no."
                  THE CLERK: Number One, Kristi
23
24
   Kotsatos?
                  JUROR KOTSATOS:
                                   Yes.
25
```

1	
1	THE CLERK: Number Two, Valerie Gouan?
2	JUROR GOUAN: Yes.
3	THE CLERK: Number Three, Kimberly
4	Roberts?
5	JUROR ROBERTS: Yes.
6	THE CLERK: Number Four, Robert Holly?
7	JUROR HOLLY: Yes.
8	THE CLERK: Number Five, Danny Richnow?
9	JUROR RICHNOW: Yes.
10	THE CLERK: Number Six, Shirley Weiss?
11	JUROR WEISS: Yes.
12	THE CLERK: Number Seven, Raven McGhee?
13	JUROR MCGHEE: Yes.
14	THE CLERK: Number Eight, Julie
15	Otermat?
16	JUROR OTERMAT: Yes.
17	THE CLERK: Number Nine, Julianne
18	Turek?
19	JUROR TUREK: Yes.
20	THE CLERK: Number Ten, Steven Curry?
21	JUROR CURRY: Yes.
22	THE CLERK: Number 11, Amy Bogner?
23	JUROR BOGNER: Yes.
24	THE CLERK: And Number 12, Geri
25	Patterson?

You're

JUROR PATTERSON: Yes. 1 The verdict of the jury is 2 THE COURT: received by the Court. Anything further before the 3 jury is dismissed, by either side? MS. DOZIER: No, Your Honor. 5 MR. SCARDINO: No, Your Honor. 6 THE COURT: All right. Thank you. 7 Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, we 8 want to thank you very, very much for your time and your attention. The time you spent with us over 10 these past several weeks, as we told you when we 1 1 started out in this process, that your service would 12 be appreciated and it would not be an easy thing that 13 14 you would be asked to do. But we are certainly thankful for your time and service. 1.5 You are now released from the 16 17 admonitions which I'd previously given you. means that you may discuss the case with anyone you 18 19 You are also free to refuse to discuss -- or 20 not discuss the case with anyone you choose. 21 your business. Oftentimes in a trial of this nature or 22 23 any trial is conducted, sometimes after the trial's 24 conducted, attorneys for either side can ask

questions about certain issues in the case.

37

free to talk to them, you're free not talk to them. 1 2 That's certainly your right. I know that for some of you, if not all 3 you, it has been an inconvenience to take time out 4 from your schedule out of your daily lives, your work 5 responsibilities, your family obligations, in order 6 to serve as jurors in this case. But I think you can 7 see and I hope you can appreciate why we need this 8 It's one of the best systems that we have. system. And that while it is an inconvenience, I suggest to 10 you that it is a necessary convenience to the 11 administration of justice and we certainly thank you. 12 At this time, I'm going to ask you to 13 return to the jury room. Please place your badges on 14 the table in the jury room. I'll be back in the jury 15 room with you in a few minutes to discharge you. 16 At this time, I'm going to ask the 17 bailiff to go ahead and take you to the jury room. 18 THE BAILIFF: All rise for the jury. 19 (Jury exits courtroom.) 20 THE COURT: Be seated, please. 21 I'm going to go into the jury room and 22 discharge the jury, then I'll be back shortly and 23 sentence the defendant. 24 The -- may I address the MR. SCARDINO: 25

1	Court, Your Honor?
	THE COURT: Yes.
2	
3	MR. SCARDINO: Are you going to make
4	if they want to speak to either side, we're available
5	to speak with them. Are you going to ask them that?
6	THE COURT: Yes.
7	MR. SCARDINO: Thank you.
8	THE COURT: I'm going to ask them if
9	they want to speak to the lawyers, and they're free
10	to stay, they're free to leave; but, yes.
11	MR. SCARDINO: Thank you, Your Honor.
12	THE COURT: All right. Remain seated.
13	The Court stand in recess, briefly.
14	(Recess.)
15	THE COURT: Be seated, please.
16	Bring out Mr. Buntion.
17	(Defendant enters courtroom.)
18	THE COURT: Both sides ready?
19	MR. SCARDINO: Yes, sir.
20	MS. DOZIER: Yes, Your Honor.
21	SENTENCING
22	THE COURT: All right. Mr. Buntion,
23	the jury having returned a verdict of in answer to
24	Special Issue Number One of "yes," to Special Issue
25	Number Two, "yes," to Special Issue Number Three,

"yes," and to Special Issue Number Four, "no," it now becomes the Court's responsibility to pronounce 2 sentence. 3 It is the order of the Court that you, 4 Carl Wayne Buntion, who has been adjudged to be 5 quilty of the offense of capital murder, and whose 6 punishment has been assessed by a verdict of the jury 7 and judgment of this Court, that death shall be delivered by the Sheriff of Harris County, Texas, 9 immediately to the director of the Institutional 10 Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice 11 or any other person legally authorized to receive 12 such convicts. 13 And that you shall be confined in said 14 15 institutional division, in accordance with the 16 provisions of the law governing the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Institutional Division, until the 17 date of execution is imposed by this Court. 18 At the receipt by this Court of a 19 Mandate of Affirmance from the Court of Criminal 20 21 Appeals of the State of Texas. You are here now remanded to the custody of the sheriff's, until he 22 23 can obey and carry out the directions and instructions of this sentence. 24

Good luck to you, sir.

25

1	That concludes this hearing.
2	You may be seated.
3	MR. SCARDINO: May we have just a
4	moment, Your Honor? We're filling out a couple of
5	forms that the Court has provided.
6	THE COURT: You may.
7	(Discussion off the record.)
8	THE COURT: On the record.
9	I want to thank counsel for the State
10	and counsel for defense for a professional
11	presentation of this case. That's Mr. Lance Long,
12	Ms. Caroline Dozier, Mr. John Casey Keirnan,
13	Mr. Phillip J. Scardino J. Phillip Scardino.
14	MR. SCARDINO: Thank you.
15	THE COURT: Thank you lady and
16	gentlemen.
17	That concludes this case, Court is
18	adjourned.
19	(Court adjourned.)
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
2 E	

1	STATE OF TEXAS
2	COUNTY OF HARRIS
3	
4	I, Tammy L. Adams, Official Court Reporter in and for the 178th District Court of Harris, State
5	of Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing contains a true and correct transcription
6	of all portions of evidence and other proceedings requested in writing by counsel for the parties to
7	be included in this volume of the Reporter's Record in the above-styled and numbered cause, all of which
8	occurred in open court or in chambers and were reported by me.
9	reported by me.
10	I further certify that this Reporter's Record of the proceedings truly and correctly
11	reflects the exhibits, if any, offered by the respective parties.
12	
13	I further certify that the total cost for the preparation of this Reporter's Record is (See
14	Volume 50), and was paid by Harris County.
15	
16	WITNESS MY OFFICIAL HAND this the 30th day of October, 2012.
17	
18	
19	
20	/s/Tammy L. Adams
21	Tammy L. Adams, CSR Texas CSR 6101
22	Official Court Reporter 178th District Court
23	Harris County, Texas 1201 Franklin, 19th Floor
24	Houston, Texas 77002 Telephone: 713/755-0880
25	Expiration: 12/31/14

/	45/41 [1] 3/10	agree [5] 12/21 17/16 29/10
/	4:03 p.m [2] 30/16 30/17	33/22 33/23
/s/Tammy [1] 41/20	5	ahead [5] 11/2 13/24 20/23
0	50 [3] 1/1 3/1 41/14	29/24 37/18 air [3] 20/9 21/9 29/25
00788045 [1] 2/3		air [3] 20/9 21/9 29/25 AKA [1] 14/12
0880 [1] 41/24	588227 [5] 1/2 4/5 11/22	Alabama [3] 12/13 13/4 16/8
1	20/6 31/20	all [47]
<u></u>	5:30 [8] 4/20 4/21 5/4 10/1	Allen [1] 9/12
10 [1] 27/25	23/21 25/17 25/18 25/23	allow [2] 12/3 16/10
10-minute [1] 28/14	5:30 to [1] 5/6	allowed [1] 29/6
1004 [1] 2/8	5:30 today [1] 25/16	along [1] 17/13
10:11 a.m [1] 12/8 10:15 a.m [2] 4/7 12/1	6	also [9] 13/8 21/23 23/13
10:41 a.m [1] 19/20	600 [1] 2/4	23/19 24/24 25/6 25/12 30/6 36/19
11 [2] 3/7 35/22	6101 [1] 41/21	alternate [2] 9/3 9/3
11185700 [1] 2/11	6916 [1] 2/5	alternates [2] 20/18 22/9
11:20 a.m [2] 20/8 21/9	6:00 [1] 6/7	alternative [1] 29/6
11:23 a.m [2] 20/11 21/7	6th [9] 1/18 4/6 20/6 21/7	although [1] 8/1
11:28 [1] 21/7	23/17 25/2 27/1 28/17 30/16	am [1] 30/10
11:38 a.m [1] 21/8	7	amount [1] 7/22
12 [8] 12/1 20/8 21/8 21/21 26/23 28/13 30/17 35/24	713/229-9292 [1] 2/9	Amy [1] 35/22
26/23 28/13 30/17 35/24 12/31/14 [1] 41/25	713/229-9292 [1] 2/9 713/236-9700 [1] 2/13	another [11] 4/9 6/17 11/5 11/17 11/25 15/1 22/5 24/1
1201 [2] 2/4 41/23	713/755-0880 [1] 41/24	25/7 26/2 32/5
12521650 [1] 2/2	713/755-6916 [1] 2/5	answer [13] 15/21 22/5 32/8
12:00 [1] 22/2	76,769 [1] 1/2	32/18 33/3 33/9 33/20 33/21
13 [2] 12/19 14/15	77002 [4] 2/5 2/9 2/13 41/24	33/22 34/1 34/22 34/22 38/23
14 [9] 12/6 12/19 14/15	9	answered [2] 33/6 34/5
15/21 16/1 16/13 18/14 19/17		answering [1] 33/19
41/25 14th [1] 12/20	917 [1]	answers [2] 31/23 34/10
15 [1] 5/23	9700 [1] 2/13	any [14] 7/9 8/14 18/20 21/18 21/22 21/24 21/25 27/4
178TH [10] 1/6 4/2 4/9 18/17	A	29/11 29/19 32/25 36/23
19/19 27/9 28/19 31/21 41/4		39/12 41/11
41/22	a.m [9] 4/7 12/1 12/8 19/20	anybody [1] 9/25
19 [1] 14/9	20/8 20/11 21/7 21/8 21/9	anyone [2] 36/18 36/20
19th [3] 4/2 4/10 41/23	about [27] 4/7 5/3 5/16 5/25 6/2 6/13 7/15 10/14 10/16	anything [5] 7/1 10/9 16/23
1:15 [3] 22/3 22/4 22/6 1:30 or [1] 7/14	13/11 13/15 13/18 13/25	30/7 36/3
1:35 p.m [2] 23/8 24/20	I	anyway [1] 17/9 AP [1] 1/2
1:37 [1] 23/17		AP-76,769 [1] 1/2
1:37 p.m [1] 25/2	22/3 23/2 23/19 36/25	APPEALS [2] 1/2 39/21
2	above [5] 1/20 34/7 34/10	APPEARANCES [1] 2/1
	41/5 41/7	applies [1] 25/11
2012 [14] 1/18 3/3 4/7 20/6 21/7 23/8 23/17 24/20 25/2	above-styled [1] 41/7 above-titled [1] 1/20	apply [1] 25/22
27/1 28/17 30/16 31/22 41/16	,	applying [1] 25/11
24066029 [1] 2/7	accordance [1] 39/15	appreciate [1] 37/8 appreciated [1] .36/13
2:00 [1] 7/14	according [1] 5/24	approach [4] 5/12 5/13 5/19
2:15 p.m [2] 23/2 23/21	acts [1] 32/14	14/4
3	AD [1] 31/22	approximately [1] 7/14
3/6/12 [6] 12/1 20/8 21/8	Adams [5] 13/24 14/8 41/4 41/20 41/21	are [23] 4/8 6/20 11/11
26/23 28/13 30/17	additional [1] 8/17	14/14 16/5 16/5 17/22 21/21
3/6/2012 [2] 23/8 24/20	address [3] 27/12 27/25	24/3 24/6 25/3 25/9 25/12 27/13 30/18 31/23 33/19
30 [1] 5/21	37/25	36/14 36/16 36/19 38/3 38/5
30th [1] 41/16	adjourned [2] 40/18 40/19	39/21
31 [1] 3/8	adjudged [1] 39/5	arrangements [1] 5/4
38 [1] 3/9	administration [1] 37/12	arrest [6] 12/5 16/8 16/12
3:46 p.m [2] 26/23 28/13	admitted [15] 12/11 12/14	16/18 18/14 19/17
3:49 p.m [2] 27/1 28/17	12/15 13/16 13/21 13/21 14/15 15/23 15/24 17/13	arrests [7] 14/15 15/15
3rd [1] 2/8	17/23 18/8 18/10 18/15 19/18	15/22 16/14 16/23 17/14
4	admonitions [1] 36/17	17/18 arrive [3] 23/21 23/23 25/23
41 [1] 3/10	Affirmance [1] 39/20	arrive [3] 23/21 23/23 25/23 arrived [1] 31/8
45 [2] 1/1 3/1	affirmative [1] 33/8	as [28] 4/16 4/20 5/20 7/17
45/11 [1] 3/7	after [4] 11/3 22/5 34/5	7/18 8/4 9/9 9/9 9/15 12/2
45/31 [1] 3/8	36/23	18/16 18/16 19/18 20/8 20/14
45/38 [1] 3/9	afternoon [2] 24/17 24/18	21/8 23/8 24/20 25/13 25/13
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